

Support Overview

EPA Region 7 requested technical assistance for the Bridgeton, Missouri community (and immediate adjacent communities) near the West Lake Landfill Superfund site in September 2013. TASC assistance was and is still needed to interpret information and engage in or facilitate discussions with the environmental justice community representatives, governmental officials, and others engaged in the community where the technical details of environmental problems and solutions of the site are being considered. TASC assistance has made a difference and progressed from a difficult and challenged relationship between EPA and the CAG to now focusing on interpreting technical information and engaging the community.

When TASC support began with the West Lake Landfill CAG, the relationship between the CAG and EPA was very contentious. TASC specifically supported the CAG to understand the history of the site, and compiled a series of fact sheets to bring the CAG members and future CAG members up to speed on site-related activities. Specific areas of concern have been the progress of the isolation barrier installation to keep the subsurface smoldering event at the Bridgeton Landfill from reaching the West Lake Landfill radioactive material, air monitoring and radioactivity in groundwater. TASC assistance laid the foundation of information, and now TASC support is less and is focusing on assisting the CAG in reviewing documents as they are released. TASC support is provided at the CAG's technical committee meetings, and participates in CAG meetings to identify areas where the CAG needs information to help them understand what is going on and form their own opinions. The CAG and EPA have an improved relationship, and the CAG appears to be engaging well in site activities.

TASC Support, June 2013 – November 2015

Approximately 17 trips to the site to attend meetings (for presentations, answering questions, interpreting information) and 8 fact sheets summarizing historical and present documents and providing educational information. CAG was meeting every month and now meeting every other month.

- September 2013: Began working with the CAG
- Initial activities included:
 - Introducing TASC and setting CAG expectations for the technical advisor: non-advocacy, independent assistance through a presentation (September 2013).
 - Identifying community needs: the CAG was very interested in being brought up to speed on activities at the West Lake Landfill and the Bridgeton Landfill.
 - Identifying best mode for transmitting information: The CAG requested fact sheets with some presentations. The fact sheets would assist the CAG in bringing new members up to speed, concentrating on providing plain language.
- Fact Sheets Summarizing Reviews:
 - February 2014: General site information, Superfund process, Radioactivity and Health Effects and the Science of Radioactivity - Presented at the February 2014 CAG Meeting.
 - March 2014: General geology and groundwater movement, as well as site sampling and contaminant concentrations in groundwater.
 - May 2014: Information explaining the 2011 Supplemental Feasibility Study Report.
 - An additional short fact sheet to understand units of measurement, including radiation measurement.
 - June 2014: History and Status of Monitoring for Gaseous and Airborne Contaminants.
 - August 2014: Summary of the Work Plan for Removal Action Preconstruction Work (revised June

20, 2014)

- September 2014: Health Risk-based Limits for Radionuclides in the Environment.
- April 2015: Summary of December 2014 USGS Groundwater Report Conclusions
- November 2015 (in preparation): Air Monitoring at Bridgeton and West Lake Landfill
- CAG request for future fact sheets:
 - Risk Assessment
 - Toxicity characteristic leaching procedure (TCLP)

TASC Support through June 2016

- Reviewing and interpreting documents supporting Isolation Barrier activities or other solutions that may be developed to separate the subsurface smoldering event from the radiologically impacted materials at the site.
- Reviewing and interpreting documents related to remedy selection activities at the site.
- Attending community meetings, including public forums and community advisory group (CAG) meetings.
- Presenting technical interpretation of technical documents at community/public meetings
- Communicating and coordinating with EPA and community for project planning, project/presentation follow-up, etc. This includes advising the CAG leaders regarding direction and planning of topics for CAG meetings. This also includes assisting the CAG in formulating questions to be submitted to EPA.
- Preparing and presenting informational presentations at community meetings to facilitate understanding of a wide range of topics, which may include subsurface smoldering events (landfill fires), Superfund processes including Risk Assessment, RI/FS and Remedy Selection.